

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DLOS-04 OFA-01 SAJ-01 /072 W
----- 123719

R 220837Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8478

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 15032

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PF CH MILI

SUBJECT: PRC AID TO SHIPS IN THE PARACELS

1. DETAILS OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE THAI-FLAG BANGKOK ORIENT AND PANAMANIAN-FLAG MACDILI, BOTH OF WHICH WENT AGROUND IN THE PARACEL ISLANDS DURING THE PAST WEEK, HAVE BEEN REPORTED THROUGH DOD CHANNELS. WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THE CHINESE ACTIONS, WHICH WOULD APPEAR PRIMARILY INTENDED TO HIGHLIGHT PRC CLAIMS TO, AND CURRENT CONTROL OF, THE PARACELS.

2. IN BOTH CASES, THE PRC HAS ACTED PROMPTLY TO SEND OUT ITS OWN RESCUE VESSELS, THEREBY PRECLUDING THE NEED FOR HONG KONG-BASED SALVAGE OPERATIONS. IN THE CASE OF BANGKOK ORIENT, THE PRC REFUSED PERMISSION FOR A DUTCH-FLAG SALVAGE TUG TO ENTER PRC WATERS, CLAIMING THAT CHINESE VESSELS WERE HANDLING THE SITUATION AND POINTEDLY INDICATING THAT THE VESSEL WAS IN THE "HSISHAS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVINCE OF KWANGTUNG". SUBSEQUENTLY, CHINESE VESSELS

HAVE TAKEN ABROAD THE CREWS OF BOTH SHIPS, AS WELL AS
RESCUING THE CREW OF THE JAPANESE FISHING BOAT WHICH SANK
IN THE SAME VICINITY.

3. OBVIOUSLY, THE PRC AUTHORITIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO
DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONTROL OF THE AREA AS WELL AS
THEIR CAPABILITY TO HANDLE RESCUE MISSIONS WITHOUT
OUTSIDE HELP OR INTERFERENCE.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESCUE OPERATIONS, STEAMSHIP LINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK15032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750443-1090
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751220/aaaaaqxb.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC AID TO SHIPS IN THE PARACELS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PF, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006